

[22 March, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

Under E-Governance, Central Government has taken the initiative of organising meetings with State IT Secretaries and a National Conference of State IT Ministers. The conference of IT Ministers drawn up an action plan to promote IT and this is being followed up with the State of Orissa.

(b) and (c) The State Government of Orissa has given priority to IT growth and has initiated many steps to promote IT. These coupled with the Central Government's efforts have enabled the State of Orissa to perform well in the IT sector compared to earlier. With many other initiatives from the Centre and State Government in the pipeline, the State of Orissa is poised for further growth in the field.

Migration of Hi-Tech Workers

*383. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian hi-tech workers are migrating towards industrialized countries to meet requirements of skilled personnel in the information and communications technology sectors;

(b) whether it is also a fact that India's quality faculty positions in Information and Technology are vacant; and

(c) if so, what steps Government have taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. With the increased opportunities World-wide in the area of IT, the IT professionals are in great demand both in the country and abroad. Faculty position in the area of IT in various Institutes are vacant due to the attractive opportunities available in the Industry. Another reason for vacancies of faculty is relative disinclination of competent professionals to join the teaching profession.

(c) Various steps have been taken by the Government (Ministry of Human Resource Development/All India Council for Technical Education) including schemes like Early Faculty Induction

Programme, Quality Improvement Programme, Continuing Education Programme, Career Awards for Young Teachers, and revision of Pay Scales alongwith better service conditions.

Assessment of pulses production

†*384. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have assessed the quantum of pulses produced in the country during the year 2000-2001;

(b) if so, what is the assessment in this regard;

(c) whether it is a fact that production of pulses is likely to be less during the current year as compared to in the past few years; and

(d) if so, to what extent the production is expected to be less as compared to the years 1998-99 and 1999-2000?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) and (b) According to advance estimates of production for 2000-2001, production of pulses in the country is expected to be 12.33 million tonnes.

(c) and (d) The production of pulses during 1995-96 to 2000-01 is given below:

	(Million tonnes)
1995-96	12.31
1996-97	14.25
1997-98	12.97
1998-99	14.91
1999-2000	13.35
2000-2001	12.33*

*Advance estimates

It is seen from the above table that the production of pulses during

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.